

Message Text

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51

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SY-04 SCCT-01 USSS-00 EB-07 FAA-00

DOTE-00 IO-10 SAJ-01 ACDA-05 OPR-01 NIC-01 /080 W

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FM USMISSION USBERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 556

AMEMBASSY BONN NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL BREMEN

AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMEMBASSY STUTTGART

USMISSION NATO

CINCEUR

CINCUSAFE

CINCUSAREUR

USELMLO

C O N F I D E N T I A L USBERLIN 384

CINCEUR FOR POLAD AND OPS

CINCUSAFE FOR POLAD AND OPS

CINCUSAREUR FOR POLAD, OPS, AEAGC-COC & AEAAG-AP

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, WB, US, UK, FR

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SUBJECT: LORENZ KIDNAPPING: OFFICIAL SENAT REQUEST FOR

AIRCRAFT AND STATUS REPORT

REF: USBERLIN 382

1. THREE ALLIED LIAISON OFFICERS WERE GIVEN MORNING OF MARCH 1 WRITTEN REQUEST FROM SENAT, SIGNED BY CHANCELLERY CHIEF HERZ, FOR BOEING 707. TEXT FOLLOWS:

"THE SENAT OF BERLIN OFFICIALLY REQUESTS THE THREE ALLIED GOVERNMENTS TO PROVIDE AN AIRCRAFT OF THE BOEING 707 TYPE NO LATER THAN 4:00 P.M. ON MARCH 2 AT BERLIN-TEGEL AIRPORT. THE AIRCRAFT SHOULD HAVE A FULL SUPPLY OF FUEL AND A CREW EXPERIENCED IN LONG-DISTANCE TRAVEL.

"THE AIRCRAFT SHOULD BE PREPARED TO DEPART AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE, BUT NO LATER THAN 10:00 A.M. ON MARCH 3, FOR AN AS YET TO BE DETERMINED DESTINATION WITH PASSENGERS, THE EXACT NUMBER OF WHICH ARE STILL TO BE DETERMINED, WHO WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY PASTOR, AND FORMER GOVERNING MAYOR, HEINRICH ALBERTZ.

"THE SENAT NATURALLY WILL ASSUME ALL THE RESULTING COSTS AND IS PREPARED TO CONCLUDE THE USUAL INSURANCE CONTRACT".

2. WE ARE WAITING FOR THE FRENCH (CHAIRMAN AS OF MARCH 1), TO TAKE INITIATIVE IN DETERMINING ALLIED RESPONSE TO THIS REQUEST. FRENCH ARE WAITING FOR INSTRUCTIONS FROM PARIS. ALTHOUGH BRITISH CHARTER COMPANIES DANAIR AND LAKER WERE APPROACHED BY SENAT BUT HAVE NO 707'S, BRITISH AIRWAYS WAS NOT CONTACTED. WE DO NOT YET KNOW WHETHER AS RESULT OF FORMAL REQUEST FROM SENAT BRITISH MISSION WILL REQUEST UK GOVERNMENT INTERVENTION WITH BA. SENAT OFFICIALS WERE VISIBLY DISTRESSED AND ANGERED EVENING OF FEBRUARY 28 BY PANAM'S APPARENTLY FINAL REFUSAL TO PROVIDE CHARTER. SENATOR FOR FEDERAL AFFIARS STOBBE ASKED LIAISON OFFICER WHETHER US GOVERNMENT WAS PREPARED INTERVENE WITH PANAM AND WAS GIVEN NEGATIVE REPLY. STOBBE THEN SAID THAT CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT WOULD PROBABLY TAKE UP MATTER WITH AMBASSADOR HILLENBRAND. (AMBASSADOR INFORMED US BY TELEPHONE THAT SCHMIDT HAS NOT YET DONE SO.)

3. AT MIDNIGHT FEBRUARY 28, TELEVISION AND RADIO CARRIED POLICE ANNOUNCEMENT THAT FIRST DEMAND OF KIDNAPPERS, CONFIDENTIAL

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RELEASE OF PERSONS ARRESTED IN CONNECTION WITH DEMONSTRATIONS OVER DEATH IN EARLY NOVEMBER OF BAADER-MEINHOF GANG MEMBER HOLGER MEINS, WAS BEING MET. ACCORDINGLY, ONLY TWO PERSONS THIS CATEGORY STILL REMAINING IN CUSTODY, ETORE CANELLA AND GERHARD JAGDMANN, WERE RELEASED MORNING OF MARCH 1 MIDNIGHT POLICE ANNOUNCEMENT ALSO CONTAINED REQUEST THAT KIDNAPPERS GET IN TOUCH WITH AUTHORITIES TO PROVE THAT LORENZ STILL ALIVE AND IN

GOOD CONDITION. ANNOUNCEMENT ALSO POSED NUMBER OF QUESTIONS CONCERNING MODALITIES OF LORENZ RELEASE IF ALL DEMANDS MET AND POSITION KIDNAPPERS MIGHT TAKE IF ONE OR MORE OF SIX B-M GANG MEMBERS REFUSED TO PARTICIPATE. (AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED, TWO OF SIX HAVE IN FACT REFUSED TO LEAVE PRISONS UNDER CONDITIONS PRESCRIBED BY LORENZ KISNAPPERS).

4. SENAT CHANCELLERY CHIEF HERZ TOLD LIAISON OFFICER THAT NEXT MEETING OF CRISIS STAFF WILL TAKE PLACE AT 12 NOON MARCH 1. DELAY IS TO PROVIDE KISNAPPERS TIME TO REACT TO MIDNIGHT ANNOUNCEMENT AND RELEASE OF CANCELLA AND JAGDMANN.

5. GERMAN WIRE SERVICE JUST REPORTED THAT BERLIN CDU HEADQUARTERS RECEIVED TELEPHONE CALL MORNING OF MARCH 1 FROM PERSON WHO IDENTIFIED HIMSELF AS MEMBER OF JUNE 2 MOVEMENT. HE CLAIMED LORENZ IN GOOD CONDITION BUT WOULD ONLY BE RELEASED WHEN DEMANDS OF KIDNAPPERS MET 100 PERCENT NOT LATER THAN EARLY MARCH 3. GEORGE

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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